

11/20/08

Hello, I'm park Ranger Andy Pearson of the National Park Service. Welcome to the December podcast of the Ranger News Network for Massachusetts area National Parks. Here's what's happening at the parks.

Lowell National Historical Park plays host to the Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust with their exhibit opening on the current construction of the [Concord River Greenway](#). An exhibit entitled "Confluence" displays Concord River Greenway signage telling many stories of the Concord River as it runs through Lowell is accompanied by the art of Wopo Holup that was inspired by the River. This exhibit is free and open weekends through December 14 at the Boott Gallery in the Boott Mills from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

At **Longfellow National Historic Site** enjoy a holiday open house, a living history program, on Saturday and Sunday, December 6 and 7, 2008.

Step back in time and meet nineteenth century poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, as portrayed by Ted Zalewski, professional actor. Mr. Longfellow will be joined by other past residents of the historic colonial mansion, portrayed by the Concordant Volunteers, a group of middle and high school students who do extensive research into the lives of the persons they represent. Visitors will meet residents from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. The Longfellow house library will be decorated for the season with holiday greens and other adornments, including children's toys, dolls, and a miniature sleigh.

Guided tours will be conducted every 20 minutes beginning at 1:00 p.m. and continue to 4pm, There is a limit of 12 persons per tour. This program is free and open to the public, but reservations are required! Please call the site at (617) 876-4491 to make a reservation.

At **New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park** explore during AHA! Arts and Culture Night, Thursday, December 11th from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Begin at the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park Visitor Center

AHA! is a monthly free celebration of arts and culture in downtown New Bedford. Held the second Thursday of every month from 5:00 - 9:00 p.m., AHA! events are put on by a collaborative team of over 42 downtown venues including New Bedford museums, galleries, arts organizations, merchants, restaurants, and the park. This event is free.

At **Boston National Historical Park**, the USS Freedom (LCS-1), visits Charlestown Navy Yard at Pier 1 from Tuesday, December 2 through Friday, December 5. The USS Freedom, is the lead ship of the Freedom class of Littoral combat ships and when berthed in Boston this will be

the newest ship in the US Navy berthed forward of the USS Constitution, the oldest ship in the US Navy.

If you would like more information on any of the above programs and events or are interested in visiting any of the Massachusetts National Parks, please visit our web site at www.nps.gov/state/ma

This is ranger Andy Pearson for the ranger News Network, thanks for joining me